

Serial Number: 10/065,675

Filed: 11/7/2002

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The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 15, 17, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by *Fan*.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 15 and 20 to include the limitation that the covers are removably attached as previously claimed in dependant claims 2 and 16, now canceled. The removable covers allow the main portion of the power supply apparatus to be cost effectively manufactured and then later customized to a specific customer's desired indicia through the addition of removable covers having dedicated indicia thereon. And alternatively, for unsold power supply apparatus to be re-dedicated to a different customer via exchange of the removable covers (specification paragraphs 0007 and 0021-0022).

The Examiner admits that *Fan* does not disclose that the single "cover" is not removable (9/15/2003 OA, P.3 Paragraph 7). Because each and every element of the claimed invention fails to appear in the cited reference, the rejection of claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 15, 17, 19 and 20, as amended, under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by *Fan* is improper.

The Examiner rejected claims 2, 6, 9-13 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over *Fan* in view of *Lam*.

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The Examiner suggests that it would be obvious to combine a teaching from *Lam*, an illuminated vehicle display device energized by a CLA interface, with *Fan*, a CLA power supply apparatus having a built in illuminated compass module, because *Lam* suggests the desirability of allowing "the user to select a cover of choice". Applicant respectfully submits that one skilled in the art of power supply adapters would not look to either a user exchangeable display covered illumination device or a CLA with built in compass to solve a problem unique to the area of cost efficient value added customer dedicated OEM branding of power supply adapters. To modify *Fan* with multiple removable covers capability as suggested by the Examiner would be to totally abandon the purpose of *Fan*, that being to provide an illuminated compass function to a CLA power supply apparatus.

Further, the cited *Lam* embodiment is dedicated to generating local vehicle illumination. When in place, *Lam* prevents use of the vehicle cigarette lighter socket for any purpose other than illumination, including use as a power supply apparatus according to the present novel and nonobvious invention.

If the proposed modification or combination of prior art would change the principle of operation of the prior art invention being modified, then the teachings of the references are not sufficient to render the claims prima facie obvious. *In Re Ratti*, 270 F.2d 810, 123 USPQ 349 (CCPA 1959)

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Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has failed to establish a prima facie case of obviousness. Obviousness cannot be established by combining the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention, absent some teaching, suggestion or incentive supporting the combination. *ACS Hospital Systems, Inc. v. Montefiore Hospital* 732 F.2d 1572, 1577 (Fed.Cir. 1984). Absent a showing in the prior art the Examiner has impermissibly used 'hindsight' occasioned by the applicant's teaching to hunt through the prior art for the claimed elements and combined them as claimed. *In re Zurko* 111 F.3d 887 (Fed.Cir.1997).

Therefore, rejection of claims 2, 6, 9-13 and 16, as amended, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over *Fan* in view of *Lam* is improper.

With respect to claim 11, it appears the Examiner has associated the printed circuit board aperture claim element with electrical interconnection points into which the LED components of the cited reference are inserted before being soldered into place. Applicant has amended the claim language to clarify that the aperture which is claimed is an opening in the printed circuit board which allows the light output of the at least one light source to simultaneously illuminate both sides of the printed circuit board.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over *Seefried* in view of *Eisenbraun*.

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As described, herein above, claim 1 from which claims 4 and 14 also depend has been amended to include the limitation that the covers are removable. Because this limitation is not taught, disclosed or suggested by the cited references, rejection of claims 1, 4 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over *Seefried* in view of *Eisenbraum* is improper.

Also with respect to the *Eisenbraum* / *Seefried* combination, the Examiner suggests that it would be obvious to combine a teaching from *Eisenbraum*, a CLA power supply apparatus, with *Seefried*, an illuminated electrical connector, "to provide decoration or identification markings as taught by *Eisenbraum*". Applicant respectfully submits that this is a motivation for creating an electrical connector with decoration or identification markings on it – not for the creation of a power supply adapter as claimed. Also, a detailed review of *Eisenbraum* fails to reveal any discussion of apertures formed in the body that the lens(s) may be covering, as claimed by the present novel and non-obvious invention. More likely, the lens(s) are an integral part positioned between independent socket end and device end body portions as shown in greater detail, for example, in *Seefried*.

The Examiner rejected claims 4 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over *Fan* in view of *Eisenbraum* and *Seefried*.

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As described herein above, independent claims 1 and 15 from which the rejected claims depend have been amended to include the limitation that the cover(s) are removably attached. Because this limitation is not taught, disclosed or suggested by the cited references, rejection of claims 4 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over *Fan* in view of *Eisenbraun* and *Seefried* is improper.

Further, the Examiners suggestion that these references may be also combined with *Fan*, a power supply adapter with an illuminated compass would destroy the function of *Fan* as the cover identified by the Examiner in *Fan* is the backlit compass viewing bubble, which must be oriented in a single upwards orientation to properly function. If further non-compass apertures and associated covers are to be used only for illumination, this aspect of the Examiner's imagined device has no desired motivation from the viewpoint of *Fan*, other than impermissible hindsight.

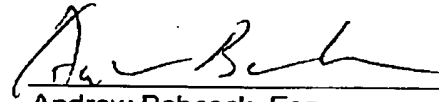
Having obviated each of the Examiners rejections, applicant respectfully requests that a notice of allowance be issued. Should the Examiner be inclined to issue an Official Action other than the notice of allowance, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner first contact Applicant by telephone at the number listed below.

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BABCOCK IP**Authorization of Charge Deposit Account**

Applicant respectfully requests a one month extension from the original due date of December 15, 2003 to January 15, 2004. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the small entity extension for response within first month fee, of \$55 and any other charges applicable to deposit account number 502327, referencing docket number 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

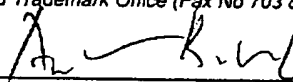


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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No 703 872-9306) on December 22, 2003.



Andrew D. Babcock